

NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training Program

The NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training Program is a training curriculum used to help potential and present entrepreneurs learn skills needed to create, develop and strengthen business ventures. Classes offer hands-on practical training by experienced business educators. Courses of study include NxLevel curriculum for:

- Business Startups
- Entrepreneurs
- Alternative Agricultural
- Micro-Enterprise
- International Trade
- Youth Entrepreneurial

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

Located in a non-regulatory agency, the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program helps small businesses understand environmental requirements. Since its inception, the program has assisted over 111,500 clients with services that include:

- Confidential compliance assistance
- Toll-free help line
- Free quarterly newsletter Clean Air Clips
- Easy-to-read fact sheets and guides
- Directories of environmental resources and consultants
- Workshops
- Environmental Recordkeeping Calendars
- Permit applications on the DCEO Web site:
www.ienconnect.com



Client Comments

"Hi. Our company is a new PTAC client. I just wanted to let you know how great Rita Haake is to work with. We met a couple of weeks ago, and I was so impressed with her knowledge, as well as her ability to take what I consider a very confusing subject, and make it understandable. There wasn't a question that I asked that she was unable to answer clearly and completely. I'm hoping to work with her for a long time to come. I just wanted to take a moment to let you know what an asset she is to your organization."

*David Porwancher
Mutare Software
Schaumburg, IL 60173*

Yesterday my partner, Bud Greene and I were extended an opportunity to meet with Marc Violante to discuss the prospects of our company doing business with the United States Military. It is rare that I would write a letter such as this to commend a person on job performance, but in this case I felt compelled to let you know of our positive experience with Mr. Violante. Mr. Greene and I have been in business for many years, and in both of our opinions, Marc Violante was exceptionally professional and knowledgeable about the task at hand. Thanks to Mr. Violante, we developed an intelligent plan to deal with the complex process of selling into the U.S. Military network. ...

*Ronald Kronenberger
American Needle Inc.*

ILLINOIS PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) program is funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Opportunity through a cooperative agreement with the Defense Logistics Agency as a service to those members of the Illinois business community interested in selling a product or service to the government (Federal, State, Local).

**Illinois Department of Commerce
and Economic Opportunity**

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dceo
Illinois Department of
Commerce and Economic Opportunity



State of Illinois

Department of Commerce
and Economic Opportunity



Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center



2008 Annual Report

2008 Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center Annual Report



For twenty three years, the Illinois procurement Technical Assistance Center has been a leader in helping the small business community through the process of Government contracting. As a key component of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network (IEN), the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) is supported by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and is a resource partner of the Department of Defense's (DoD's) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The PTAC provides statewide contracting assistance to Illinois businesses interested in doing business with the government.

The information contained in this Annual Report depicts the services available and provided during calendar year 2007 through the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

Procurement (Government Contracting) Technical Assistance Centers Provide:

- Assistance with bid applications
- Targeted contracting opportunities
- Bar code and packaging information
- Government standards and specifications
- Quality assistance guidelines
- Contract administration information
- Radio Frequency Identification/Unique Identification (RFID)/(UID)
- Assistance with certifications
- Advise and assist with post awards functions
- Assist with eBusiness technologies
- Assist with subcontracting opportunities
- Provide training opportunities

2008 Economic Impact

- 647 Jobs created
- 2,806 Jobs retained
- 5,542 Contracts won
- \$1,106,115,109 Value of Contracts won

The dollar value of contracts won results in a return-on-investment of \$615 for every tax dollar spent on this program.

Historical Economic Impact



Illinois Entrepreneurship Network

The mission of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network is to provide comprehensive business assistance, training, information, advocacy and access to critical resources to help Illinois small businesses and start-up entrepreneurs enhance their competitiveness and ability to succeed in a rapidly changing, global economy.

Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Illinois Small Business Development Center has been a leader in helping the small business community. As a key component of the IEN, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is supported by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and is a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBDC provides statewide business assistance services to new and expanding businesses.

Through the Illinois Small Business Development Center and Illinois Entrepreneurship Network, a variety of free services are available to assist pre-ventures and growing Illinois companies. Services include:

- Business management assistance Technical training resources
- Market information
- Assistance with financial analysis
- Business education and workshops
- eBusiness services

The Illinois Entrepreneurship Network also provides specialized business services for particular sectors of our state's economy.

SBDC International Trade Centers (Export Assistance)

- Evaluation of a company's export readiness
- Easy access to foreign markets
- Pricing and transportation Information
- Foreign trade activities and trade show Schedules
- International market resources and trade leads
- Specialized assistance through NAFTA Opportunity Centers

Illinois Entrepreneurship Network Business Information Center

Located in DCEO's Illinois Entrepreneurship Network, the IEN Business Information Center is the single statewide resource for individuals and businesses to obtain comprehensive regulatory and permitting information. In addition, Business Information Center staff provide professional guidance to entrepreneurs by linking them to state and local resources.